



Flathead National Forest

650 Wolfpack Way

Kalispell, MT 59901

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News Release

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Forest Service Releases Proposed Action to Amend the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo National Forest Plans for Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy

KALISPELL, MONTANA – March 5, 2015

The proposed action to amend the land management plans (forest plans) of the Helena, Kootenai, Lewis and Clark, and Lolo National Forests to integrate the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to support a recovered grizzly bear population in the NCDE is being released for public comment. The proposed amendment provides grizzly bear habitat-related management direction within the portions of each forest that lie within the NCDE. This is a prerequisite for eventual delisting of the NCDE grizzly bear population under the Endangered Species Act.

The Flathead National Forest is leading this project as it concurrently prepares its revised land management plan, which will also incorporate relevant portions of the NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy. The Forest Service will prepare a single environmental impact statement (EIS) for these amendments and the Flathead National Forest's revised forest plan.

The following community meetings are planned to provide additional information and address questions related to the revision and amendment proposed action:

- March 17, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Flathead National Forest Supervisors Office, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell MT 59901
- March 19, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Riverstone Family Lodge, 6370 US Hwy 93N, Eureka, MT 59917
- April 7, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Seeley Lake Community Center, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

- April 8, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Rocky Mtn. Heritage Center (Ft. Missoula), 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804*
- April 9, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Superior Ranger Station Conference Room, Superior, MT 59872*
- April 14, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Lincoln Community Hall, 404 Main St., Lincoln, MT 59639*
- April 15, 2015, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Stage Stop Inn, 1005 Main Ave. North, Choteau, MT 59422*

*Meetings in Missoula, Superior, Lincoln and Choteau will primarily address amendment proposed action.

The amendment component of the proposed action can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/gbamend. The Flathead National Forest plan revision component of the proposed action can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr. Links to the 2012 planning rule and the draft NCDE Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy can be found on these websites as well.

Project leader Joe Krueger noted, “The release of the proposed action initiates the scoping process. We are seeking public input to guide the development of the environmental impact statement and to further develop and refine the grizzly bear habitat management plan for the four amendment forests.”

For further information about the project, contact Joe Krueger, Forest Planner, Flathead National Forest, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, Montana 59901, (406) 758-5243, or at flatheadplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

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